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# Prioritisation of health research

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In response to the Comment “Young Voices demand health research goals”,<sup>1</sup> we would like to offer our experiences as *The Lancet* Student Regional Advisor Group and representatives of TheLancetStudent.com (TLS).

TLS aims to encourage students everywhere to engage in global health and research activities. As students, we are concerned that the voices of young people worldwide remain unheard when it comes to health research. TLS groups and Regional Advisors (students themselves) are working hard to promote interdisciplinary collaboration between students and researchers, and trying to close the gap between universities, health institutes, global partners, and policy makers. We are aware that talented young researchers from developing countries have fewer opportunities to submit research proposals. Our experience from TLS groups in such countries makes us believe that, with guidance and training in health promotion and in research, students can add value and we believe that our enthusiasm and ideas can empower and influence health-care policies.

Through our worldwide collaboration with young people, we know that students themselves want to be more involved in global health issues. We try to do our part by informing, raising awareness, and, most importantly, encouraging students to get involved in global health and research and overcome major challenges in health research:<sup>2</sup>bridging the gap between the young researchers and policy makers to produce worldwide high-quality research focused on communities' needs.

## References

1 Kok M, de Souza DK. Young Voices demand health research goals. *Lancet* 2010; 375: 1416–17.

2 Anon. Declaration of the International Students' Meeting on Public Health (ISMOPH). April 27, 2009; Istanbul, Turkey. <http://www.t-hasak.org/english/word%20congres/ismoph.pdf> (accessed July 27, 2010).